

Hedi Bouzaoui

Karad's woinlis, unDapulis do'
York University, Topala Karad, Kpikus
gajolexvia

Dear Elli Merry Xmas & Best wishes for
a happy New Year.

Indeed we need peace in these troubled times
and I have been thinking a lot about you
because of what's happening in Cyprus...

Let's hope for the Best and for chance to
meet again to see you.

I am spending my sabbatical in Paris where I shall
stay till the end of July 84 - Here is my address & phone

3/1480/D

11 Rue du Dr. FINLAY 75015 - PARIS - FRANCE
Tel 577-05-55. PRINTED IN ITALY

A bientôt - Warmest greetings. Heidi (Burani)

Je ne suis ni ton amant
Ni ton mari
Je suis ce rien
Qui nous unit

HÉDI BOURAOUI
ÉMIGRESSENCE



VERMILLON



Dear Eli:

Here are a couple of pictures which
will remind you the good time we spent together
in Lyon. What happened to the interview your
husband did during our conference. The theme was so
interesting that I am anxious to read it.

Hope your creativity is going well.

I am so busy with the administration of the French Department
at York University that it doesn't leave me time for my own
work. However I am expecting my novel to come out soon.
Lots of love, Hédi

Dear Elli,

I enjoyed reading you book of
poems & I wrote a book review
for you which I am submitting
to the Canadian Review ENVOI
in Ottawa.

It will take some time to
appear (4 issues a year) &
I'll send you a copy when it's out.
Hope you are enjoying life as usual
Regards to Pemas & love to you

Heidi
7-




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WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

Hédi Bouraoui
University Professor
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Elli Argyridou-Péonidou, Heures, 24 poèmes traduits du grec par Maria Orphanidou-Féris et Jean-Claude Villain, Éditions l'Harmattan, Paris, 1996, 64 pages.

Ce recueil bilingue d'Elli Péonidou, poétesse chypriote confirmée qui a publié plusieurs livres pour enfants en plus de huit livres de poésie, est le premier que nous ayons en français. D'entrée de jeu, disons que ces textes ne présentent aucune maladresse de traduction. Les poèmes courts coulent dans une limpidité et un naturel caractéristique du génie de la langue française. Poèmes structurés selon vingt-quatre heures débutant à "6:00" jusqu'à "5:00" en passant par "24:00". Ces chiffres servent de titres à ces poèmes condensés qui ne retiennent que l'essentiel.

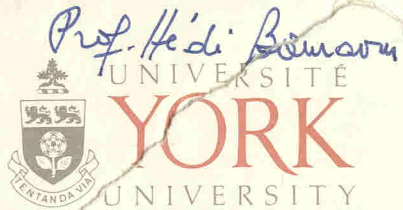
Elli Péonidou capte à merveille le passage du temps dans son infime précision tout en l'insérant dans son contexte atemporel serti de la mythologie grecque et sa tradition. Mais cette fluctuation du temps est traitée par une gestuelle concrète qui dramatise bien les frissons et les secrets de la vie quotidienne: "genou fléchi, l'aube s'apprête pour une danse des îles/ sur l'Erection/ les paupières du jour frissonnent/ les voix secrètes plongent au fond de la mer/ le jour soulève ses voiles lavés. Bonjour." (p.13). J'ai tenu à citer ce premier poème en entier parce qu'il est caractéristique de tout le reste du recueil.

Poésie dense et finement ciselée. Poésie des profondeurs qui saisit l'immensité du monde qui nous entoure à travers nos gestes habituels. Poésie qui rapproche de nous les horizons les plus

lointains par d'étonnantes combinaisons d'images et de symboles. Le talent du poète consiste à se méfier des "pompeuses paroles" qui risque de gâter le paysage poétique. Ainsi, elle produit d'une manière discrète des vers qui nous surprennent: "Sur la joue d'Artémis une poudre irisée." (p.17), ou "Des sons percent l'édredon du silence." (p.23) ou "Ma fille recueille les larmes du midi" ... "Forte est l'évocation élégante du chèvrefeuille" (p.31). Les choses et les sentiments se font et se défont dans une virtuosité qui nous laisse ébahis par leur pouvoir de suggestion et de silence générateur de sens.

Le poète nous avertit que lorsque nous avons enroulé le temps en "douces pelotes", comme Adonis, nous ne pouvons jamais deviner le temps que nous pouvons tenir, et "Lorsque nous le saurons il sera trop tard." (p.33). Attente, expectation, observation des événements, silence "entre fatigue et angoisse" constituent les thèmes récurrents de ce recueil qui méritent plusieurs lectures. Tout le panthéon de la mythologie grecque y passe avec ses déboires, sa sérénité, ses naissances et ses métamorphoses. La partie la plus belle est octroyée aux rêves qui "s'entremêlent. Des araignées tissent le silence./ Les étoiles débordent du panier du Verseau/... Les racines travaillent toujours dans l'obscurité./ Elles aussi possèdent odorat et toucher." (p.51). Justement, c'est cette saisie de l'univers dans ce qu'il possède de plus évanescent et de plus fragile et concret qui séduit le lecteur. Envie de "revenir à l'âge de l'innocence" pour goûter les "Arômes de basilic et de menthe" (p.57), afin que nous puissions ré-ouvrir la porte de ces textes saisissants.

Hédi Bouraoui



Prof. Hédi Boumarou

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Elli Leonidou
~~P.O. Box 544~~ M. Trajistruke
Limassol
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van

Département de
littérature française

Department of
French Literature



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April 10, 1997

Dear Elli,

Thank you for your letter of December, which I found on my return to Toronto the last couple of weeks. As you know, I'm on sabbatical in Paris this year until the end of August. I'm glad you like the book review of your poems, and of course your translator can publish it in the whole or in part in any French review he wants.

This sabbatical year has been so busy for me, giving lectures in France primarily, but also in Israël, Tunisia, and Italy.

I'm glad to tell you that my last novel, Retour à Thyna, is out of print after six months, which is very good news for me, and I just finished proofreading the second edition, which will be out by the end of April.

Good luck on all of your creative works. Give my best to Panos. Hope to see you soon in Europe, maybe in Italy in May at the AICL meetings or in Paris: 63, rue Pascal, 75013-Paris, phone/fax 33-1-4535-1698.

Love and warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hédi".

Prof. Heidi Goussari
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MAIL

**1 EN CAS DE NON REMISE
RENOYER A BP 71120
NL-3000 PC ROTTERDAM Z**

17.04.97

**PORT PAYÉ
ROTTERDAM
PAYS-BAS
LETTRE**

*Elli Peonidou
14, M. Parides STR.
Limassol - 3091
CYPRUS*

Office of the Master



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4700 KEELE STREET, DOWNSVIEW, ONTARIO M3J 1P3

January 18, 1982

Mr. Elli Péonidou
P.O. Box 544
LIMASSOL
CYPRUS.

Dear Elli,

First of all I would like to thank you very much for your good wishes, and for sending the greek version and the french translation of your "Hours". I would like to extend to you my congratulations and my best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful year. May it give us the opportunity to see each other again.

I am delighted to hear that Aragon gave you flattering compliments about your poems. It must be such a gratification coming from an important writer. I personally enjoyed reading your poems in french. I must admit it shall need some re-working. I will try to do so in the near future. Unfortunately I do not know greek and I do not know anybody who might help me for the moment. I will let you know.

I have managed however, to give the greek text to a colleague of mine who knows the greek community in Toronto very well. He is planning to see if we can find a translator into english, and he might show them to a composer friend of his. So who knows? Maybe we shall be lucky to find them a public. Here again I will keep you informed.

I want to tell you how much I enjoyed seeing you again in Sofia. I do hope that we will meet again soon.

Take care and keep in touch.

Bien affectueusement,

Hédi Bouraoui

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September 24, 1981

Mr. Elie Péonidou
P.O. Box 544
Limassol
Cyprus.

Dear Elie,

I have not seen you or I have not heard from you for a long time. I am sorry I have missed you at the Third International Congress of Writers in Bulgaria. I am sure you were present. I could not make it because of my work here in administration and teaching. At any rate I keep remembering the beautiful moments we spent together in Sofia, Varna etc...

I am sending you, under separate cover, my last book dealing with 10 legends in 3 languages illustrated by the famous canadian artist Saul Field.

As you shall see one of the legend is devoted to Greece: The golden fleece, so I thought this might interest you.

If there are any possibilities of book reviews, I would certainly appreciate it..At any rate keep your good work going.

Best wishes for all your endeavours. Looking forward to seeing or hearing from you soon.

Bien affectueusement,

Hédi Bouraoui

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May 20, 1998

My dear Elli,

Thank you for your letter, and for sending Sergio Villani your text, which I'm sure he will include in the book he is preparing for me. But let me tell you he hasn't shown me any of the poems-texts he has received. He wants it to be a total surprise. At any rate, I appreciate your contribution and your friendship.

Thank you also for sending separately your new book of poetry in Greek. Congratulations on this major achievement, and I do hope your "novel for young people" will have as great a success as the one you have in all your works of poetry.

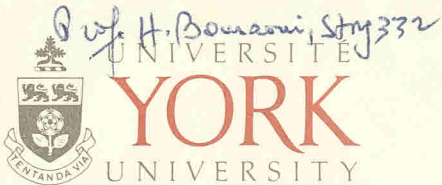
Needless to say, I will pass your book on to any Greek reader whenever I have an opportunity. I used to have a Greek friend-poet writing in the Greek newspaper here, but I haven't heard from her for a long time. Rest assured that I will be glad to promote your work in any way possible.

The end of the academic year has been very hectic, and I'm preparing to go to Europe at the beginning of June. I hope I'll have an opportunity to visit you one of these days.

Please give my best to Panos, and to you, love,

Hedi

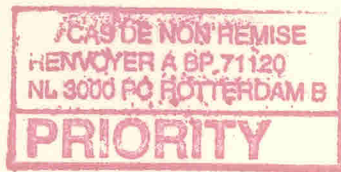
*Hedi Buzani
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November 4, 1981

Mr. Eli Péonidou
P.O. Box 544
Limassol
Cyprus.

Dear Eli,

As you told me, I found your nice letter on my return from Bulgaria. Let me say first that I was so delighted to see you and have lunch with you in Sofia. It was so good of you to phone me. Thank you very much for the nice comments you made in your letter. I am happy you liked my book. I look forward to seeing yours hopefully in the near future. The idea of writing poems on pictures dedicated to the 24 hours of the day and night is excellent. I wish you luck on this project.

The remainder of my stay in Bulgaria was so exciting, attending concerts, seeing galleries and participating in speeches. The whole celebration was a fantastic event and I will have to relay this to our Committee here in Canada.

Lubomir Levchev informed that there shall be another writers' meeting, end of June. So I look forward to seeing you there.

I trust you had a good meeting of the P.E.N. Club in Cyprus. I will have to inquire about P.E.N. Club in Canada.

Take care, best wishes for all your activities.

Love

Hédi Bouraoui
Master, Stong College



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Le 4 décembre 1997

Aux Amis Poètes et Collègues de Hédi Bouraoui

Pour célébrer, au printemps prochain, la retraite de Hédi Bouraoui de l'Université York, — où il a passé une trentaine d'années comme professeur et administrateur distingué —, aussi bien que fêter la renommée du poète-romancier, on voudrait lui offrir un livret de témoignages sous forme de poésie ou de prose.

J'aimerais vous inviter à participer à ce projet en vous demandant un poème ou bien un texte en prose de l'ordre d'une page, qui exprimerait vos sentiments vis-à-vis de l'homme ou/et de l'oeuvre, ainsi que l'action francophone et culturelle.

Veillez me faire parvenir votre texte manuscrit et dactylographié **avant la fin février 1998.**

*le plus tôt possible
S. V. P.*

Dans l'espoir que vous pourriez accepter cette invitation, je vous remercie,

Cordialement,

Sergio Villani
(Rédacteur, *LittéRéalité*)



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of. Tapis 14

Eli Peonidou

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